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July 11, 2001

Mr. J. Daniel Mis  
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Ref: 9180-5  
Dept:

Date: 08AUG01 SHIPPING \$9.72  
Wgt: 1 LBS SPECIAL \$0.39  
HANDLING \$0.00  
TOTAL \$10.11

SERVICE: PRIORITY OVERNIGHT  
TRACK: 6018 7710 3648

Re: Patent Application for: METHODS OF FORMING METALLURGY  
STRUCTURES FOR WIRE AND SOLDER BONDING AND  
RELATED STRUCTURES; Our File No. 9180-5

Dear Dan and Kevin:

Enclosed please find a revised, final draft of the patent application and the drawings directed to the above-identified invention including revisions based on comments provided by Dan Mis on July 5, 2001. Also enclosed are the Declaration and Power of Attorney (attached to the application) and the Assignment for confirming ownership in Unitive Electronics, Inc.

As previously noted, it is essential that the patent application, as filed, be technically accurate and complete, and that it set forth the best mode of carrying out the invention. If the application is fully satisfactory, then you should read and then execute the Declaration and Power of Attorney attached to the application. Please note that the application must be complete in all respects, *i.e.*, all changes must be made before the Declaration and Power of Attorney is executed. In the event any changes are made, each such change to the patent application must be initialed and dated.

The Assignment should be executed in the presence of a Notary Public who will then properly notarize the document.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are requesting that you review that the proper inventive entity has been identified for the claimed invention(s). There is no need to reply on this matter if the proper inventive entity is named. As you may be aware, inventorship is determined by the subject matter of the claimed invention. Generally stated, to be an inventor one must have made an actual contribution to the conception of the operative invention that is claimed. There may be joint inventorship even though the joint inventors (a) did not work

Mr. J. Daniel Mis

Mr. Kevin Engle

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physically together or at the same time, (b) did not make an equal contribution, or (c) did not make a contribution to the subject matter of every claim of the patent. A worker who merely carries out the instructions of another or only provides implementing devices to carry out another's ideas where the effort to do so is the exercise of one of ordinary skill is not typically an inventor. Further, persons listed as contributing to an article describing or related to the invention are not necessarily inventors. Please feel free to call with any questions that you may have on this issue.

We would also like to point out that an inventor is required to make a Declaration when the inventor's application is filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), acknowledging a duty to disclose information of which the inventor is aware and which may be considered to be material to the examination of the application. "Material" in this respect is defined as information that a reasonable examiner would likely consider important in deciding whether to issue a patent. "Material" information as defined above may possibly include devices, products, publications, etc. that are similar to the invention and were publicly known before the invention, and it may also include any public disclosure, commercial use, or offer of sale of the invention more than one year prior to the filing date of the application. The USPTO encourages applicants to carefully examine 1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and 2) the closest information over which it is believed any pending claim patentably defines to ensure that any "material" information contained therein is disclosed to the USPTO.

If you are aware of any information that you believe might be considered "material," it is vitally important that it be brought to our attention as soon as possible. Submission of material information more than three months after filing or after receipt of the first Office Action (whichever is later) requires payment of a fee. In addition, late submission of material information may protract prosecution of this application and result in a forfeiture of potential patent term extension. Accordingly, we request that you provide us with any material references of which you are aware as soon as conveniently possible. We can then make a determination whether the information should be brought to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office under the applicable rules. Please also be aware that the duty to disclose "material" information continues throughout pendency of the application, until the application issues as a patent.

Pursuant to recent changes in the law, a U.S. application will be published approximately eighteen months after the earliest priority date to which the application is entitled, unless a specific non-publication request is made. Publication may in some circumstances provide additional infringement damages. There are additional fees associated with publication and third parties may submit references against the published application to the Patent Office. A request to not publish the application must be filed at the time of filing the application and must include a certification that the invention has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in a foreign country (e.g., under an international agreement such as the PCT) that requires eighteen-month publication. If you later wish to file an application in a foreign country, we must

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Mr. Kevin Engle

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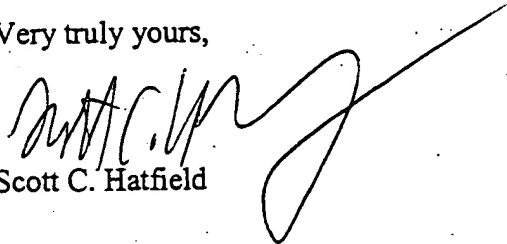
promptly rescind the non-publication request to avoid abandonment of the application. If you would like for us to file a request to prevent publication of the application, please inform us immediately in writing. We will not request non-publication of the application unless you instruct us to do so.

The name of the assignee may be printed on the face of the published application. Absent instructions to the contrary, we will provide the name of the assignee for publication purposes. If you do not want the assignee's name to be printed on the published application, then please advise us in advance of the filing of the application.

Please return all original, executed documents as soon as possible for filing with the United States Patent Office.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

  
Scott C. Hatfield

SCJ/ejp  
Enclosures

cc: Dr. Glenn A. Rinne